



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

**Testimony in Support of:
Senate Bill Number 268
Senate Bill Number 271
House Bill Number 5508
Appropriations Committee
Friday, March 11, 2016**

Chairmen Bye and Walker, Ranking Members Kane and Ziobron, and Members of the Appropriations Committee: For the record, I am Representative Vin Candelora, and I would like to thank the Committee for raising the following bills:

- S.B. No. 268 An Act Establishing A Working Group To Discuss State Budget Projections, Trends, Areas Of Growth And Opportunities For Efficiency, Federal Budget Activity and Spending Control Options And Develop Recommendations Thereto.
- S.B. No. 271 An Act Concerning A Request For Qualification For The Provision Of Healthcare Services And Behavioral Healthcare Services
- H.B. No. 5508 An Act Providing Funding For The Drug Assets Forfeiture Revolving Account For Inpatient Drug Treatment Services

The House Republican Caucus stands in strong support of these bills.

SB 268 - While I understand the bill title for SB 268, I think it can be shortened to: "An Act Concerning Long-Term Fiscal Planning". That is the intent of this bill. It seems like we have long-term plans for every policy area imaginable in Connecticut...but not for our state budget. Arguably, the budget is the most important piece of legislation that we deal with, but each year we make fiscal decisions that just barely get us through one or two years.

We now know that we are facing a \$4.5 billion deficit in the next biennium, and the deficits further out continue to grow. Rather than waiting to solve the next biennium, we should be putting in place policies that have a long-term impact and can start